



AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN MEDIATION

We, the parties and mediators who signed below, voluntarily agree to participate in mediation. We understand the following:

Mediation is voluntary. All participants have the right to stop mediating at any time. Any participant may stop for any reason.

Mediation is a neutral process. Mediators do not take sides with either party and do not make decisions on their behalf.

Mediation does not change parties' legal options. Participating in mediation does not mean giving up the right to go to court. If any party feels that mediation has not resolved the matter well enough, the party may still go to court or take other legal steps after mediation.

Mediation is confidential. The mediators agree to keep all information discussed during the mediation private. We understand that, if the parties go to court in the future, the mediators and staff of The Resolution Center cannot be called to testify for or against either party. (This is Massachusetts General Law chapter 233 section 23C.)

There are exceptions to confidentiality. The mediators may make exceptions to confidentiality to report to an appropriate official:

- 1) Claims of abuse or neglect; and/or
- 2) Plans to hurt self or another; and/or
- 3) Plans to commit a crime.

Mediation via audio and/or video conference: When participating in a mediation session via audio and/or video conference, we agree to the following:

- We agree not to record or permit recording of any part of the mediation process. "Recording" includes audio, video and image (photograph or screenshot) recording.
- We agree that only persons who have signed the "Agreement to Participate in Mediation" may attend, participate or be allowed to listen in on the mediation without the prior consent of all parties. I shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that no other person has the ability to hear or see any part of the mediation session. Any such interruption during a session will be disclosed to all session participants immediately.

Mediated Agreement: The parties may reach an agreement and put it in writing. If they do, The Resolution Center will give a copy of the agreement to the parties, keep a copy on file and if a court is involved in this matter, will provide the original copy of the agreement to the court.

Signed by the Parties:

Party 1 Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Date _____

Party 2 Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Date _____

Party 3 Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Date _____

Party 4 Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Date _____

Party 5 Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Date _____

Signed by the Mediators:

Mediator Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Date _____

Mediator Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Date _____

Observer Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Date _____